

**Kanegasaki Sister City Committee
Regular Business Meeting
First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall
February 13, 2007 6:30 PM**

Members Present: Byron Koh, Denise Boyd, Yuko Takahashi, Nancy Bess, Carolyn Platt, Stephanie Joyce, Nancy Pagano

Others: Florence Boynton

Minutes of November Meeting: Accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Bess reported that we now have \$1,483.63 in our treasury. Byron was reimbursed \$76.94

Kanegasaki Middle School Upcoming Visit to Amherst

Denise has organized the schedule for the March 21-25th, 2007, Kanegasaki Sister City visit to Amherst. The chaperones will be Koseki-san (the new Kanegasaki Town Hall Director of Education), Omori-san (Kanegasaki language teacher) and Takahashi-san (tour guide).

- **Wednesday** The group will arrive at Amherst Town Hall about 5 PM and Nancy Pagano will arrange for a greeting ceremony/reception there with the Town Manager and a member of the Selectboard. As usual, students will meet their host families and will go home with them from the reception. The chaperones will have dinner at Paradise of India with Libby Hurley (Assistant Principal of the Amherst Regional Middle School), Irene LaRoche (ARMS teacher) and Denise. They will be escorted to their accommodations at the Lord Jeffrey Inn afterward.
- **Thursday** 7:15 AM Yuko Takahashi will pick the chaperones up at the Lord Jeff and take them to the Middle School where they will meet up with the Japanese students to begin their tour of Amherst downtown including the Jones Library and the Amherst History Museum. There will be some time to shop. (Because of MCAS testing that morning, there are no regular ARMS classes being held that they could attend.) Nancy Bess and Yuko will lead this tour. At 10:45 AM Denise will take the Japanese chaperones to meet the Superintendent, Dr. Jere Hochman. Students and chaperones will have lunch, tour school and attend afternoon classes. Denise will bring chaperones back to the Inn for free time and students go home with host families. At 6 PM Japanese chaperones will be picked up for dinner with KSCC members at Byron Koh's home.
- **Friday** 8:30 AM Denise picks up chaperones and takes them to ARMS to join host students and visiting students for field trip to Old Deerfield and Butterfly Museum. 2:20 PM all return to ARMS for dismissal and Irene LaRoche brings chaperones back to Inn. At 6 PM chaperones picked up 6-9 PM dinner at Bertucci's with KSCC members.
- **Saturday** 11-2 PM Jennifer Welborn picks up chaperones at Inn and takes them to Northampton for sightseeing & lunch and then drops them off at the bowling alley for a bowling party with the Japanese students, their host students and families. Irene LaRoche drives chaperones back to Amherst. From 4:30-5:45 PM, a practice is scheduled for the Farewell Dinner performance at the ARHS cafeteria. The Farewell Dinner will be held from 6-8 PM with visitors, host families and KSCC members.
- **Sunday** Host families drop off students at Lord Jeff and entire group leaves Amherst at 9 AM.

Grant Writing: Great progress has been made on writing the grant proposal to the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. The \$26,000 grant (approximately) would cover teacher chaperones (4 x \$2,400) and students non-scholarship (8 x \$1,900), as well as the Japan Club trip to Boston, snacks, etc. (\$1,500). The grant writing group, (Nancy Bess, Yuko Takahashi, Helen MacMellon, Denise, and Byron), built on Alex's old proposed draft and have almost completed a new grant proposal over the last two months. Kathy Woods Masalski has also been a very helpful resource. Denise and Nancy Bess went on the Center's website to get details and found that environmental education projects focusing around real needs are more likely to get funding. It is possible that the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, a 501C (3) agency, could be involved which would add legitimate community-based service to the concept. Helen Ann Sephton, Denise's friend and an environmental education teacher at the Center, is consulting with Denise about this.

To be considered by the grantors, projects are required to have the following elements:

- Japan-based collaborative partner
- Current topics that are policy-relevant the US and Japan
- Have clear and concrete designs that articulate the ideas, participants and goals of the project
- Ideas or participants that comprise a breadth of viewpoints
- Event, such as a symposium, conference or workshop—a minimum of one
- Dissemination plans, such as a publication or academic paper

Priority is given to projects with:

- Results that are shared and widely disseminated, and which contribute effectively to the existing body of knowledge and/or shape project.
- Long-term commitment to the issues
- Innovative concepts or approaches to engaging the project topic
- Participants that reflect diversity in ethnicity, gender and geography

Projects center on annual or ongoing events are given low priority. The grant concept is due to the Japanese Foundation Center by June 1st and the full proposal is due July 1st.

Jones Library Gift: Carolyn is about to send Amherst's gift of a carton of books to Kanegasaki. Nancy Bess and Carolyn are working together on a letter to be included. The letter will explain the change in the composition of the books being sent. Not all are brand new, not all are children's books, but all are like new and beautiful and they were lovingly chosen by Carolyn for their content and appropriateness.

Taste of Japan Exhibit

Once again this year Martha Monaghan, Special Events Manager at the Worcester Dinning Commons, has invited the KSCC to set up a display table and participate in the Taste of Japan festivities sponsored by the UMass Dining Services. This annual event will be held on February 28th, from 5-8 PM, in the Oak Room at Worcester Dinning Commons. Nancy Bess and Carolyn Platt have volunteered to set up the display on behalf of the KSCC again this year. This will enhance the event and hopefully also attract new members to our committee. Carolyn will forward Martha's email to KSCC members to see what anyone can do with planning and preparation. Stephanie mentioned that she has a lot of materials that could be used because of her annual spring tradition of setting up her Fort River classroom as a traditional Japanese house and garden. This year that event will happen the week of April 9th and KSCC members are welcome to visit.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Liaison/Secretary

The next KSCC meeting will be Wednesday, March 14th, at 7 PM, in the First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall.